

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

READ carefully all information that comes from financial institutions, including their privacy policy. Return Opt Out notices promptly.

Opt Out of pre-approved credit and insurance offers for 5 years
(888)-567-8688, or go to www.optoutprescreen.com

Reduce telemarketing calls and junk mail, go to the Direct Marketing Association's website; www.dma.org, (consumer assistance.)

Reduce unwanted emails, go to www.dmachoice.org.

Place your home phone number on the National Do Not Call List, (888-382-1222, www.donotcall.gov).

Avoid entering sweepstakes and contests, (and ending up on more mailing lists.) To have your name removed from major sweepstakes mailers, contact the following companies:

* Publishers Clearinghouse, 101 Channel Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050,
(800) 645-9242

* Readers Digest, Readers Digest Rd., Pleasantville, NY 10570,
(800) 234-9000

* American Family Publishers, P.O. Box 62000, Tampa, FL 33662,
(800) 237-2400

Be protective of your Social Security Number, do not have it printed on checks. Give it out only when required, (tax forms, employment records, banking and stock transactions)

When filling out warranty and product registration cards, give only name, address, and product information

To remove your name from catalog mailing lists, go to www.catalogchoice.org

Shred documents with personal information when no longer needed, such as: pre-approved credit applications, credit card receipts, and bank statements.

Never give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or on the Internet, unless you have initiated the contact, know who you're dealing with, and how the information will be used

Make Internet purchases from encrypted sites only - look for sites beginning with https.

Never leave receipts at ATM's, bank counters, or gas pumps

Remove mail promptly from your mailbox, or use a PO Box for sensitive mail

**For more information or to obtain this factsheet in an alternative format, please contact
the Office of Consumer Protection at 410-313-6420(voice/relay)
or email us at consumer@howardcountymd.gov.**